

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Original): An image recording apparatus which records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:

an inputter for inputting the image signals;

a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a second size which is equal to or smaller than  $1/N$  ( $N$  : integer ) of the first size;

a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein said recorder includes a searcher for searching unit recording zones each of which is in a vacant state, a writer for writing the compressed image signals into the unit recording zones discovered by said searcher, and a creator for creating link information indicating a link state of the unit recording zones in which the compressed image signals are written;

~~An image recording apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:~~

~~an assigner for assigning a successive identifying number to each of the compressed image signals;~~

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an acceptor for accepting a restoring instruction of said link information; and  
a restorer for restoring said link information on the basis of said identifying number in  
accepting said restoring instruction.

Claims 4-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An image recording apparatus according to claim 9, further  
comprising:

an assigner for assigning a successive identifying number to each of the compressed still  
images created by said compressor; and  
a restorer for restoring the link based on the identifying numbers assigned by said assigner at a  
time of accepting a restoring instruction in a state of the link destroyed.

Claims 12-16 (Cancelled)